

SILC Meeting

March 21, 2016

Helena, MT

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 AM by Monique Casbeer, SILC Chair.

Members Present: Michelle Williamson, Mitch McCabe, Barbara Davis, Allison Smith, Monique Casbeer, Trinity Martel, Mary Olson, Tracey Carlyon-Sanders, Rosemary Hughes

CIL Directors: Tom Osborn, Mike Mayer

DSE Staff: Jim Marks, Bill Harant

Guests: June Hermanson

The January minutes were approved unanimously.

DETD Update: Jim provided a background description of the SILC and DSE. Legislative action has restored the IL GF funding that was cut from the budget. Other areas of Voc. Rehab. will be seeing cuts however. All 3 VR categories were closed as of March 9. At this time about 1000 people are on the VR waiting list for services.

Because of overspending its budget by approximately \$3.4 million, VR will enter a “maintenance of effort” to mitigate the cost. Because of tax revenue shortages, the state has imposed a hiring freeze and a cut in the current SFY 17 budget. All purchases are being reviewed as well. There is a potential for federal budget cuts. WIOA is also driving some of the overspending in the DSE.

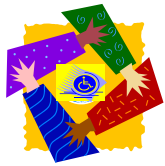
Jim outlined WIOA Section 511 as one of over 100 changes to the Rehab Act. It is a civil rights portion of the Act involving employment of youth and those employed at subminimum wage.

SILC Business: Members were provided a copy of the current SILC Budget Worksheet. Much of the business of the SILC has been focused on the current legislative session.

The 704 report has been delayed in being submitted as ASL implements changes to the reporting software. It will be submitted as soon as the bugs are worked out.

There were no additional public comments.

Reports:



State Rehabilitation Council Barbara volunteered to be the SILC representative on the SRC. A joint meeting with the SRC has been suggested. Michelle provided some explanation of the SRC for those members unfamiliar with it.

APRIL Mary provided a brief background of APRIL. They recently held a webinar about outreach to veterans. A webinar focused on Native Americans will be held in April. The April Conference will be held in Spokane, WA, October 22-23. Mary also mentioned that she is on the national SPIL redesign committee.

MYLF/ Montana Youth Transitions June Hermanson stated that the Family Transition Plan Training is progressing. There will be another training at the end of April in Billings. Soft Skills Academy and Train the Trainer for it have also taking place. MYLF will be in July as usual at Carroll College. The Montana Youth Transition Conference will be in Billings in November. MYLF Minis and MYLF 2 continue to be held and are well received.

CIL Reports:

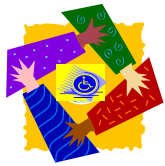
NCILS Tom provided a brief explanation of NCILS activities. They have been conducting Career Counseling and Information and Referral (CCIR) interviews required under Sec. 511 of all employees working at subminimum wage under a FLSA Sec. 14c Certificate. These have been going well. Some of the interactions that have taken place with these employees and/or guardians were mentioned. NCILS has also been active during the legislative session. They are concerned about possible budget cuts to waivers, IL, and other services. Bills affecting disability services moving through the legislature were discussed. Michelle asked about the number of testimonies for HB17. Tom said there were few from consumers and that most were from providers and CILs.

Summit Mike reported that the legislative session has been taking up a lot of their energy. Travis Hoffman has taken the lead on this. The Legislative and Self-determination task forces have also been very involved. Youth transition classes have been going well. In Hamilton, the classes are being offered in the high school. BALLS is being presented in Kalispell and Ronan. IL classes continue to be offered to all and over 200 have participated in Self-determination classes. Youth and others have been taking advantage of the services offered at BASE. As with NCILS, the CCIR interviews are progressing. The next 3-31/2 months should be busy.

There were no reports from MILP or LIFTT.

Committee Reports:

Executive Committee the committee has been discussing resource development, 501c3 possibilities, and the 704 Report. Mary said she would send out the link to the PowerPoint presentation she gave at SILC Congress on 501c3.



Competitive Integrated Employment Not much has been going on. They have taken time off to focus on legislative issues. They will be sending a letter to 14c Certificate holders and other agencies after the legislature. Partners, consumers, and families will be contacted to discuss eliminating subminimum wage and segregated employment. Questions about this are being asked during the CCIR interviews.

Education Committee This committee is down to one person and needs to be reinvigorated. The state print shop still needs to be contacted about adding pictures and watermarks to the brochure.

Consumer Satisfaction and Needs Assessment Committee provided information about their activities. They are using Survey Monkey to present the survey online, however there has not been a good return on the survey. Only about 14% of the total surveys sent out were returned. This is better than in the past but still disappointing.

Needs Assessment statewide meetings need to be developed. Monique suggested that these would be a good opportunity to hand out the survey and to get email contacts for a follow up survey. Meeting attendees may be more open to returning surveys personally presented to them.

SPIL Assessment Committee An explanation of the SPIL and some of the things being done to implement the SPIL goals and objectives was provided. The SILC will need to meet the Standards and Indicators once they are adopted.

Nominations Committee Lee Ann Beers nomination for the SILC was put forth. She was unanimously approved and her name will be forwarded to the governor's office.

Task Force Reports:

Legislative Advocacy Task Force continues to work on legislative issues. They have been contacted by the Jeannie Brown Center for Community Change which is putting together some national initiatives. They will be meeting in April to develop strategies.

Self Determination Task Force is focusing on legislative issues, especially budget bills for the last 2 months. During their meetings over the last 5-6 months they have had good participation from case management providers.

Transportation Task Force is interested in amending the Trans-Aid bill but the legislator carrying the bill says there is not enough time to make any changes. The Trans-Aid account has increased to between \$900,000 and \$1.2 million. In the DOT lead agencies in communities are used instead of transportation districts. As such they are not following the recommendations of the federal transit agencies or the TACs. The task force and others are trying to facilitate change.

Native American Task Force still is not meeting.



Youth and Employment Task Force is following the bill to increase high school graduation age to 22. They have also reorganized their goals and are also working on goal setting.

Other Business

Rally Day is Wednesday from 11:30 – 1:30 in the Capitol Rotunda. They will be stressing “Don’t roll back our rights” and “Nothing about us without us.” Senators Caferro and Kenoke will be among the speakers. It is hoped that the press will be in attendance tomorrow.

The US House is expected to be voting on the repeal of the Affordable Care Act tomorrow. Press releases have been sent out.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 3:00 PM.

The next meeting will be in Billings, August 17-18. LIFTT will be asked to host.